

POLICY BULLETIN CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

NSLP 16-08

July 15, 2008

**SUBJECT: Mandatory Implementation of Direct Certification
with the Food Stamp Program**

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This guidance is issued to inform you that direct certification is a mandatory process, which must be implemented by all local educational agencies (LEAs).

Effective July 1, 2008, LEAs, regardless of enrollment, must conduct direct certification activities with the Food Stamp Program. There are only two exceptions to the mandatory direct certification:

- Schools operating under Provision 2 or Provision 3, which are in non-base years; Direct certification must be conducted only in base years; and
- Certain residential child care institutions (RCCIs) or boarding schools. RCCIs or boarding schools with only residential students do not have to conduct direct certification. However, RCCIs and boarding schools must conduct direct certification for any day students in advance.

LEAs that have not conducted direct certification before should review Part 6 of the January 2008 edition of the Eligibility Manual for School Meals for additional guidance (http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Guidance/eligibility_guidance.pdf).